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The whole ART of

LEGER DEMAIN.

BRITISH MUSEUM

How to paſs the Balls through the Cups.

YOU muſt place yourſelf at the farther End of the table, and provide yourſelf three Cups made of tin, and your magick ſtick to ſhow wonders withal. Then you muſt provide for ſmall cork balls, but never let more than three of them be ſeen on the Table.

Note. Always conceal one Ball in the right hand, between the midd'e and ring finger; and be ſure to make yourſelf perfect in holding it there; for by this means all the tricks of the cups are done. Lay your three balls on the table, then ſay, Gentlemen, you ſee here are three Cups and three balls, there is a cup for each ball, and a ball for each cup: Then, taken that ball you have in your right-hand (which you always are to keep private) and clapping it under the firſt cup then taken up one of the three balls, with the right-hand, and ſeem to put it in your left, but retain it in the right ſhutting your left-hand in due time. Then ſay Preſto be gone. Then taking the ſecond cup up, ſay, Gentlemen, you ſee here is nothing under the cup then clap the ball under your right hand, ſeeming to put it in your left, but retain it in the right, ſhutting your left in due time, as before, ſaying, Vade be gone. Then taking the third cup up, ſay, Gentlemen, you ſee here's nothing under the cup, then clap the ball under your right-hand, and take the third ball up with your right hand, ſeeming to put it into your left-hand, but retain it in your right. So ſhutting your left-hand in time, as be-

fore, ſay, Preſto make haſte. So you have the three balls under three cups. Then with your right-hand take up the firſt cup, and then clap that ball under, which you have in your right-hand. Then ſay, Gentlemen, this being the firſt, I'll put it into my pocket, but you muſt keep it in your right-hand to play with. So take up the ſecond cup, with your right-hand, and then clap that ball under which you have concealed, and ſay, Preſto, this alſo I put in my pocket. Then take up the third cup, and clapping the cup down again, convey the ball you have in your right-hand under the cup; then take the third ball, and ſay, Gentlemen, this being the laſt ball, I take and put this into my Pocket likewiſe: Gentlemen, by the power of experience, I will command the three balls immediately under the cups again. So lay them along the table, to the admiration of the Beholders. Then taking up the firſt cup, and clapping the ball under, you have in your right-hand, and then taking the firſt ball with your right-hand, ſeem to put the ſame into your left, but retain it in your right, ſay-

ing, Vada, be gone when I bid you, and run under the cup. Then taking that cup up again, and flinging that under your right-hand, take up the ſecond ball, ſeeming to put it in your left-hand, but it keep in your right hand, ſaying, Gentlemen, ſee how the ball runs on the Table; ſo ſeem to fling it away. So taking the cup up again, and clapping the ball under again, as before, then taking the third ball in your right hand, and ſeem to put

tin your left, but keep it ſtill in your right. Then with your left-hand ſeem to fling it into the cup.

Then take the cup up, and clapping that ball under which you have in your right-hand. Then taking up one of the three balls in your right-hand, and ſeemingly put it into the left, and with the left ſeem to fling into the air, ſaying, Be gone. Then take up the ſecond cup, and clay it upon the firſt. And in ſo doing be ſure to leave the ball there. Then take up the ſecond ball, with your right-hand, and ſeem to put it in your left, but keep it in your right, ſaying, Likewiſe this do I fling away. Then take the third cup and clapping it on the ſecond, and leaving the ball there that you have in your right-hand, take up the third ball, and ſeem to put it in your left, but keep it ſtill in your right-hand. Then ſay Gentlemen, this being the laſt, I'll fling this away too. Now, ſeeing they are all gone, I will command them all back under the cups.

How to ſhow the Hen and Egg-Bag.

YOU muſt buy two or three yards of callicoe, or linen, or if you ſteal it 'twill be more like ſlight of hand) and make a double bag, and at the mouth on that ſide next you, make four or five purſes, in each of which you muſt put two or thee eggs, and ſo do till you have filled that ſide next to you. And have a hole made at the end of the bag, that no more than two eggs come out at once. Then you muſt have another bag like unto that exactaly, that one muſt not be known from the other. And then put a live hen in that bag and hang it on a hook on that ſide the table you ſtand on. Then take one of the eggs, and pretend to make it ſtick to cieling. Then drop the egg bag, and nimbly ſhew the bag with thee This, a noble fancy if well handled.

Of Conveyance of Money.

THE conveyance of money is not ſo much inferior to the balls, but much eaſier to do. The principal place to hold a piece of money in, is juſt the palm of the hand, and the beſt piece to keep is a teſter, but with conſtant exerciſe all will be alike, except the money be very ſmall, and then it is to be betwixt the fingers, almoſt to the end, whereas the ball is to be kept below, near the palm. The money muſt not be of too ſmall, nor too large a circumference, for hindring the conveyance.

To convey Money out of one Hand into the other.

FIRST, you hold open your right-hand, and lay therein a teſter. Then lay thereon the middle finger, of your left-hand, and uſe ſome words. And then ſudden ſlip your right hand from your finger wherewith you hold down the teſter ſtill therein, and ſuddenly I ſay, drawing your right hand through your left, out ſhall ſeem to have left the teſter there, eſpecially if you ſhut in time your left-hand Which that it may more probable appear to be done, you make take a knife, and ſeem to knock againſt it ſo as to make great ſound. This is a device by which both the eye and ear are deceived.

How to command ſeven Half-pence through the Table.

THIS feat is one of the greateſt the jugglers have, and is inferior to none. To do this you muſt go to ſome tinman, or one who knows how to make holes in ſix of the half-pence, and let them make holes wide enough for a die to go in and out; and then let them clap a good halfpenny on them all, and ſo make them faſt, and none can tell them from true ones; and get a cap to cover the half-pence, and a die for the company to ſling to amuſe them.

When you are thus provided with half pence, and a die, the manner of performance is thus : Desire any one in the company to lend you seven half-pence, promising soon to return them again. Then say, Gentlemen, this cap is made just fit for your money. Then clapying the Cap on, desire one of the company to fling the die, to see what they can fling, and in so doing, take off the cap and convey the money which is false into the cap so as the company does not see it put in, Then with the cap over the die, and with your right-hand take up the money, and put it into your left, under the table, saying, Vade, be gone ; command the die to be gone, and the money to come in the place. So take up the cap, and the die is gone, and the money is come; so, taking the true money in the right hand, and knocking under the table, making a jingling as if the money was just coming thro' the table, say, there's the money ; and with your right-hand take off the cap, saying, there's the die ; so convey the false money into your lap, and say, there's the cap likewise. This is an ingenious feat, if well handled.

To fill a Measure of Corn, and cover it with a Cup, and make it come under one of your Cups, with a live bird under another, and an Orange under the Third.

NOW you must take out the three cups you have in your bag, and place them on the table, the company thinks they are the first three cups you have been shewing, and you must have a bag with corn and a measure in it. Then take and fill your measure, but it must be the wrong end you fill. So cover the measure, and when you cover it, turn the measure up-side down, as you may do by taking it off, and saying that this measure of corn must come under one of the three cups. Then perhaps the company may desire you to

ſhow your cups, which you may do. So then lift up your cups, one after another, and all the company thinks nothing is there, by reaſon they ſee nothing. So then you deſire ſome acquaintance to let you know which cup the wheat muſt be under. He ſays, under ſuch. No replies you, here it is. Then taking up the cup, you ſee as much wheat as the meaſure can hold which is kept in the top of the cup. with a round piece of ſole-leather made for the purpoſe, and when the cup is clapp'd down hard, the leather comes down, and the wheat covers it. This trick aſtoniſhes the beholders, The ſecound cup, has an Orange under it, which ſticks to a ſpike at the top of the cup, and by clapping the cup down it falls to the board. The third has a live bird conclealed, by help of a piece of copper in the cup and opens by a ſyring like a tobacco-box, by ſqueezing of the cup, the ſpring opens, and the bird will jump out.

How to eat Fire, and blow it up in your Mouth with a pair of Bellows.

ANOINT your mouth with liquid ſtorax, and you may put in a burning pair of tongs, without hurting yourſelf, and lick them till they are coſd, by the help of this ointment, and preparing your mouth. Thus you make take wood coals out of the fire, and eat them as you would bread, dip them into brimſtone powder, and the fire ſeems more ſtrange, but the ſulpher puts out the coals, and ſhutting your mouth cloſe, puts out the ſulphur; and ſo they commonly champ the coals, and ſwallow them, which they do without much offending the body.—But if they were bound to eat nothing elſe, it would be a ſad trade. If you put lighted charcoal into your mouth, you may ſuffer a pair of bellows be blowing continually, and receive no hurt, afterwards your mouth muſt be thoroughly cleanſed, or it will

cauſe a ſalivation. Tis a dangerous thing to be done, and altho' thoſe that practiſe it, uſe all the means poſſible to prevent any danger, I never ſaw one of theſe fire-eaters who had a wholeſome complexion. The reaſon I could give, but it is known to the ſons of art. Some put bole-armoniac into this receipt, a cold thing, and ſpoils the whole compoſition, leaving out hematitis and liquid ſtorax, but let them beware how they uſe it.

To Eat Tow, and ſet in on fire in your Mouth.

GET a handful of tow, hold it on your left hand, then take it with your finger and thumb of your right-hand, and put it in your mouth, chewing of it, ſeem to ſwallow it, and when your mouth cannot hold more, put the buddle of tow you have in your left-hand to your mouth, in order to eat more, then diſgorge what you have in your hand. All this while you muſt have a piece of touchwood lighted, and wrapp'd in ſome that you have to eat.

To make a Card face to the Right and Left, and turn round twenty Times.

YOU muſt be ſure to have a clean pack of cards, and the card you would have a leap, jump or turn round, you muſt ſtick a needle between the folds of paper the card is made of. Before you put it over the eye of the needle, that no part of it may be ſeen. Then deſire any perſon to draw a card, which you muſt contrive to be of the ſame ſort, and let them put it over the pack again. Then ſhuffle the cards, and that card which was drawn convey away. Now you muſt have a load-ſtone in a handkerchief, within your hand, ſo put your hand under the table, the cards lying on the table, and as you move your hand under the table, the card the needle is in will ſeperate from the reſt, and as you move your hand, the card the needle is in, will go the ſame way.

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